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NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXXI. No. 107

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome
street.—SOLON BRIDGES—LIVE LIONS.WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas
Hotel.—HYPOCONDRIAC—TWO MEN FOR GOOD SATURDAY.IRVING HALL, Irving place.—BLIND TOM'S GRAND
PIANO CONCERT.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 55 Broadway, opposite
Metropolitan Hotel.—STROMBOLI'S. DANCING, ACROBATIC,
AND THE ART OF CHAIRMAN STREET.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 101 Broadway—Sings—Sings
and dances, burlesque, etc.—NEW WORKING GIRLS OF
NEW YORK.GEORGE CHRISTY'S OLD SCHOOL OF MINSTRELS,
BROADWAY, near St. Nicholas Hotel.—Sings, dances,
and acrobatic.—NEW WORKING GIRLS OF NEW YORK.BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Metropolitan Hall, 473 Broadway,
near St. Nicholas Hotel.—Sings, dances, and acrobatic.BONNY'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway, near St. Nicholas
Hotel.—Sings, dances, and acrobatic.—NEW WORKING
GIRLS OF NEW YORK.NEW YORK MILITARY OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway,
near St. Nicholas Hotel.—Sings, dances, and acrobatic.COOPER INSTITUTE, 4th Floor—GRAND ENTERTAINMENT
OF THE CADET OF THE NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEERS
INSTITUTE.GRAND ORGAN AND VOCAL CONCERT—AT THE
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Lexington avenue, corner
of Thirty-third street.SULLIVAN'S GALLERY, 710 Broadway.—Mr. C. O. THOMAS
NEW PICTURE, "SWANS IN THE CENTRAL PARK."

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Tuesday, April 17, 1866.

ADVERTISING OF THE CITY PRESS.

The Herald the Great Organ of the
Business and Reading Public.Annexed are the returns to the Internal Revenue
Department of the receipts from advertising of all the
daily papers of this city for two years. In the first
column are the receipts for thirteen months, being the
year 1864, with one month of 1865, and in the second
column are the receipts for the twelve months of 1865—

Paper.	Thirteen months ending Dec. 31, 1864.	For the twelve months ending Dec. 31, 1865.
Herald.....	\$577,455	\$663,198
Tribune.....	200,900	201,841
Times.....	251,812	284,432
Evening Post.....	163,177	222,716
World.....	128,056	177,204
Journal of Commerce.....	100,595	173,646
Transcript.....	62,644	104,461
State Zeitung.....	67,550	126,380
Sun.....	94,328	101,793
Commercial Advertiser.....	60,322	77,556
Daily News.....	48,905	77,048
Evening Express.....	92,350	68,742
New Yorker Democrat.....	21,054	25,734
Totals.....	\$1,579,587	\$2,485,724

This shows the HERALD to be, by its extensive and
comprehensive circulation, the chief organ of the ad-
vertisers of the Metropolis, and the medium of commu-
nicating their business wants to the public.

THE NEWS.

THE PLATE WAR.

Our special correspondence from South America,
dated at Corrientes 26th and Buenos Ayres 29th of
February, Montevideo the 1st and Rio Janeiro the 10th
of March, reached us yesterday by way of England. The
reports from the seat of war on the Plate river are inter-
esting. The Brazilian Admiral, Tamandare, reached
Corrientes on the 21st of February, and sought an inter-
view with General Mitre, Commander-in-Chief of the
allied forces, immediately. No movement was, how-
ever, undertaken by the Brazilians, and their inactivity
was the subject of severe comment; the fleet under
the Admiral being a powerful one, including
some iron-clads. The Paraguayans held out
determinedly and made some very daring naval sorties,
crossing the Paraná in armed canoes, on the vanguard
of the Argentine. It was thought the Brazilians would
attempt a passage of the Paraná, and that it would be
effected, but with immense loss to the allies. The Pa-
ra de la Plata was more carefully watched by the allies
since the success of the Paraguayan incursions on the
"Paraderes." A very full account of the fortifications of
Humana, with a description of its approaches by
land and water, appeared in the Herald to-
day. There was a change of ministry in Brazil.

THE FENIANS.

Our advice from Eastport state that a document per-
meating the English sailors to join the Fenian ranks has
been circulated on board the British gunboat at Camp-
bell. Forty men on the Cleaver, an English vessel,
have been put in irons for mutiny. A reward of \$1,000
is to be offered for the arrest of the capture of the flag
on Indian Island. Fenians still arrive at Eastport. Two
hundred and fifty were expected yesterday from Boston.
The Mayor of Calais, Me., apprehends serious
trouble from the presence of Fenians in his
town, and he has telegraphed to the Governor
for protection. No disturbance had occurred as yet.
Doran Kilian is to address a mass meeting in Calais.
No one is allowed in the streets of Cornwall after eleven
o'clock at night. Colonel Wheeler is of a sanguine and
cheerful temperament and takes his imprisonment easy.
Two United States Army officers appearing on the streets
in their uniform occasioned some excitement, and
nearly escaped arrest. The examination of the prisoners
begins to-day.

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WEST INDIES.

The steamship Guiding Star, at this port yesterday,
brought news from Cuba dated to the 11th of April.
General Scott reached Havana from New Orleans, and
embarked on the Guiding Star for New York. Some of
General Priu's officers, exiled from Spain, had reached
the island. In the sugar market the last quotations were
maintained. Freighters were dull.The late advices from Ponce, Porto Rico, inform us
that there is a great demand for vessels at that port.
About four thousand hogsheads of sugar were awaiting
shipment.At St. Vincent, West Indies, the inhabitants, alarmed
by the recent outbreak in Jamaica, loudly demanded
troops from England for the protection of capitalists.
Coal was very scarce and at very high rates in Barbados.From Jamaica, Hayti, we have a special account, dated
on the 25th of March, of the terrible conflagration at
Port au Prince, which was reported in the Herald a few
days since. Incendiaries were at work in the city. The
fire commenced in the store of Mr. Hepburn, on the
afternoon of March 19, and spread with such rapidity
that in one hour seven hundred houses were in flames.
It was thought that the town was fired in revenge for
the execution of six of Salnave's revolutionary officers,
which took place there on the 17th ultimo.From St. Domingo city, under date of March 20, we
learn that the President, in his message to Congress,
drew attention to the recent visit of Secretary Seward to
the island, from which he secured very happy results, as
adopting Mr. Seward's advice, he was determined to pro-
mote the development of the resources of the country to
the utmost. The late attempt at revolution at San Chri-
stoval was a complete failure. The new Minister of the
United States (General Canaan) was very popular.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday there was nothing of impor-
tance transacted. A lively passage of arms took place
between Mr. Conness and Mr. McDougall, both of Cali-
fornia, in which the former declared the latter to be a
disgrace to the Senate, and the latter declared the state-
ment to be a falsehood. The bill in relation to the
Habeas Corpus act was taken up, but not acted upon.In the House a bill was introduced and referred to the
Committee on Appropriations, authorizing the payment
of \$577,625 to the State of New York for paying the
claims of the militia of that State who served in the war
of 1812. Additional testimony taken before the Recon-
struction Committee was ordered to be printed. A long
chapter of personal explanations followed, in which
Messrs. Conkling and Raymond, of New York, figured
conspicuously, without any serious result, however. The
bill for the organization of the army was amended by
providing that two of the new cavalry regiments should
be composed of colored men. A resolution was adopted
requesting the President to communicate to the House
any correspondence with the French government with
regard to the withdrawal of its forces from Mexico
which may have been exchanged since the correspond-
ence communicated to the House on January 5, 1866,
and especially any correspondence in regard to any
specific promise from the French Emperor to put a stop
to his proceedings in Mexico, and discontinue imperi-
alism there.

RECONSTRUCTION.

A large mass of testimony was submitted to the House
yesterday by the Committee on Reconstruction, em-
bracing evidence and opinions from Generals Vaux,
Swaine and C. C. Andrews, Alexander Stephens, Senator
Sharkey, ex-Governor James Johnson, and several
others; but few facts of great interest or impor-
tance were elicited. The testimony of Mr. Stephens
was the most important. He stated as his opinion
that an overwhelming majority of the people of Georgia
are exceedingly anxious for the restoration of the
government, and for the State to take her
former position in the Union and enjoy all her
rights and adjust all her obligations as a State,
under the constitution of the United States as it
stands amended. His opinion is, and the sentiment of
the people of Georgia is, that the exercise of the right
of secession was resorted to from a desire to render
their liberties and institutions more secure, and from a
belief on their part that this was absolutely necessary for
that object. He thinks that the people are perfectly satis-
fied with the experiment, and that they will never re-
sort to that measure of redress again. He believes that
the only hope for their liberties now is the restoration
of the constitution of the United States and of the govern-
ment under the constitution. He also stated that since
the late of January the freedmen had gone to work with
great regularity, and that the labor question had much
improved in all its aspects. The people of Georgia were
disposed and ready to do the negroes justice, and to pro-
tect them in all their rights. The testimony of Messrs.
Stephens, Johnson and Sharkey is given pretty fully else-
where in our columns.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate yesterday the bill incorporating the
New York Board of Fire Underwriters, to improve
Grand and Third streets, Brooklyn, and incor-
porating the North River Savings Bank, were
passed. The bill refunding to various banks
and insurance offices the taxes paid in 1863 and '64 on
government securities, with an amendment making it
applicable to New York, was also passed. A bill ap-
pointing commissioners to investigate any system on the
Hudson river was advanced to a third reading.

THE CITY.

The President yesterday nominated Henry A. Smythe,
President of the Central National Bank, to be Collector of
New York, and Samuel G. Courtney to be United States
Attorney for the Southern District of New York, vice
Mr. Dickinson, deceased.The car drivers' strike still continues. No step has been
taken by the companies towards conciliating the men and
travel still continues very irregular. A meeting of the
drivers was held last evening, at Landman's Park, at which
it was decided to leave the dispute to arbitration. A
meeting of sympathizers was held in Harlem, at which
nearly one hundred dollars were collected in aid of the men.
A committee of citizens has been appointed to receive
subscriptions for the relief of the strikers, many of whom
had no money at all up when the strike occurred. At
the meeting of the Board of Councilmen, yesterday,
the present strike of the drivers was taken up. Resolu-
tions were adopted directing the Corporation Council to
take steps to revoke the charter of the railroad com-
panies and to commence suits against them, for charging
more fare than they are allowed by their charters. The
Board of Aldermen directed the Corporation Council to
notify the proper officers of the several companies
to resume running at once, and in case of refusal to
institute any proceedings necessary to abrogate the grants
made to them by the city.In the Board of Aldermen yesterday the Councilmanic
resolution relative to advertising the description of the
bodies of unknown persons on which inquests have been
held was concurred in, as was also a resolution directing
the appointment of a committee of five to inquire into
the expediency of providing relief to the household citi-
zens of New York, by erecting temporary buildings on
public grounds, and to petition the Legislature to sanction
the raising of the necessary means for the accomplish-
ment of that purpose.The case of the United States vs. Sinclair Webb, who
is charged with having done business in lottery tickets
without a license, was set down for hearing at ten o'clock
yesterday morning before Commissioner O'Brien, but no
investigation into the circumstances took place, as it is
understood the defendant will not contest the matter
with the government. It is stated that upon advice he
has consented to pay the amount of the license. Had
the inquiry gone on it is supposed that a great deal of in-
teresting information respecting the lottery system and
the operations of outsiders not immediately connected
with it would have been elicited.The Madison funeral will close as was called up yesterday
in Part I of the Supreme Court, Circuit, when, on motion
of defendant's counsel, the trial was postponed until the
first Monday in May.The General Term of the Supreme Court has non-
affirmed the order directing the receivers of the Colum-
bian Insurance Company to pay their city taxes in pre-
ference to the claims of any other creditors.Judge Clarke has decided that Mr. Thomas North, for-
merly counsel to the Hudson River Railroad, who detains
the books of the company on the ground that fees are
still due him, has no lien for costs in actions between the
company and other parties not actually collected by the
company. The Judge, in his opinion, cited the circum-
stances under which a lien may be maintained.The Kings County Court of Oyer and Terminer com-
menced its April session yesterday. The panel for grand
jurors was called, when only thirteen were found qual-
ified, and the case was adjourned till to-day.In the Brooklyn Court of Sessions yesterday the fol-
lowing named prisoners were brought to the bar and
sentenced.—James Powell, assault and battery on a po-
lice man, fined \$20, and to be imprisoned five days; JohnMcCarthy, assault and battery, fined \$30; James Meacher,
assault and battery, fined \$50; Thomas McGinn, assault
and battery, fined \$30; Wm. Myers, grand larceny, State
Prison for five years.The General Sessions yesterday Jacob Cline, an
old pickpocket, who stole fifty-two dollars from Mr. Wm.
H. Steele, at the office of the New Jersey Railroad Com-
pany, pleaded guilty and was sent to the State Prison for
three years.Three boys, seventeen years of age, named David
King, James Davis and William Downes, who stole a gold
certificate for five hundred dollars from Messrs. Morris
& Braine, were committed yesterday for trial. Two of
the boys had got as far as Philadelphia when they were
caught, living a fast life on the money.A man named John Kane was committed to the Tombs
yesterday on the charge of forgery.Among the numerous complaints received at the Com-
plaint Bureau of the Health Board yesterday was one
from a citizen asking a remedy for a serious grievance.
He having used a certain rat poison in his house finds
that the vermin, instead of going into the open air to
die, have gone to their nests, in the floors and partitions,
where their decomposing bodies emit a sickening odor.
For the first time in several weeks no seizures of un-
healthy meat were made yesterday.The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Broadway Taber-
nacle church was celebrated last night, when the Rev.
Dr. Thompson conducted the exercises.The stock market was firm yesterday. Governments
were stronger. Gold closed at 125½. The Money Article
is published in the Supplement sheet.The Shipping Intelligence and Shipping Advertisements
will be found in our Supplement sheet this morning.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The attention of the people of the Central American
republics was, on the 21st of March, completely occu-
pied with the consideration of questions arising from
the surrender of General Barrios, ex-President of San
Salvador, by President Martinez, of Nicaragua, to the
San Salvadoran authorities, when he, Barrios, had been
driven by stress of weather to land on Nicaraguan terri-
tory. There is no treaty of extradition between the
countries. General Barrios was executed after his sur-
render, and it is now asserted that Martinez gave him up
in order to secure the aid of San Salvador in making
himself Dictator of Nicaragua. England, having always
advocated a confederation of the five republics, on Gen-
eral Barrios' plan, has commenced an unfriendly diplo-
matic action towards Martinez.Our correspondent in Belize, Honduras, writing on the
27th of March, reports trade as dull in the colony. The
sugar crop was being taken in, and regarded as a fair
yield. Logwood and mahogany were scarce, high in
demand. The weather was cool and pleasant. Finan-
cial retrenchments were being enforced by the Legisla-
ture.It was reported in Belize that cholera had broken out
in the city of Guatemala; but the particulars had not
been received.In our Supplement sheet will be found full particu-
lars attending the wreck of the steamer Vera Cruz, on Body
Island, on the 12th inst. A portion of the crew arrived
at this port yesterday.Judge Underwood, in explaining his recent habeas cor-
pus decision, says that his opinion simply was that the
late peace proclamation did not revoke the previous
proclamations of President Lincoln suspending the writ
in certain cases.A terrible explosion of what was supposed to be nitro-
glycerine occurred yesterday afternoon near Wells,
Fargo & Co.'s building, in San Francisco. Fifteen per-
sons were killed, eight of whom are unrecognizable on
account of being so horribly mutilated. Ten or more
were seriously though not fatally injured. The loss in
property is estimated at \$200,000.Despatches from Halifax yesterday state that not a
single case of sickness has occurred among the cabin
passengers of the steamer England.Henry S. Stanbury, of Ohio, has been nominated As-
sociate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Sixth
District, in place of Judge Catron, deceased.THE GERMAN QUESTION.—THE GAME AGAINST
AUSTRIA.The present position of Prussia in the question
that agitates Germany is in one sense re-
markably like that of the radicals on the vital
topic of our own politics. We made war for
four years against men who proposed to carry
certain States out of the Union, claiming and
declaring constantly that our nationality and
existence depended upon the fact that no State
could leave the rest. We triumphed; but no
sooner was the war over than the dominant
party stepped around to the views of our ene-
mies and declared that the States were out, all
the time had been out, and that the question of
the day was next to determine the conditions
on which they could come in.Prussia has just been guilty of the same flat
contradiction of herself. She and Austria to-
gether made war against Denmark for the two
duchies. Denmark claimed them as her own; but
Prussia and Austria declared that the rights
of Denmark had expired; that the duchies be-
longed now to a German prince, and that the
Scandinavian must give way. On this position
the duchies were taken by force; but now
Prussia repudiates all notion that Germany at
large or any German prince has any rights in
the matter; declares that the duchies belonged
of right to Denmark, and now belong to the
Powers that tore them from her. She holds
to this last view so tenaciously that she is
even ready to make war against her late ally
simply because that ally insists that the two
Powers did not take the duchies for themselves, but for Germany.
In our own case, we know very well what
turned the radicals round. To cover and
carry out party games it was necessary to
hold opinions directly antagonistic to those the
war was waged on, and they faced about with-
out scruple. They hold that the States are out
in order to be consistent with something that
they propose for the future, not caring to be
consistent with the past. In the same way the
Prussian change of front indicates a political
game of so much future importance that mere
consistency is a trifle in comparison with it.This game is to be played on a large scale,
and is altogether the arrangement of the Euro-
pean Napoleon and M. Bismarck. The state was
doubtless made up at Biarritz last year. France
a few years since desired to extend her frontier
in two directions—toward Italy on the one
hand and Germany on the other. Her wishes
toward Italy induced the Italian war. That was
a struggle in which France and Italy
fought against Austria to make Sardinia the
one Italian Power. The programme of united
Italy only stopped short of Venice; and it
stopped where it did because if it had gone
further the war would not have been against
Austria merely, but against all Germany. It
would have become European; the republicans
would have been up, and anybody's throne
might have gone down in a day. But stopping
where it did, the consideration to France was
made secure. That consideration was the
Italian provinces on her border that she
coveted. Her desire in that direction was
gratified.The object of the war that is now to be made
in Germany is to satisfy the cravings of France
toward the Rhine, just as the Italian war did
her cravings toward Italy. It is still France
and another against Austria. The only dif-
ference is that the other is Prussia instead of
Sardinia, and that Prussia is to be made the
one German Power, as Sardinia was the one
Italian Power. The consideration to France is
the whole left bank of the Rhine. Timid rea-
soners suppose that France ought to hesitate to
make one great German Power, even more than
one great Italian Power; but having gone sofar toward making one, she must perhaps
make the other to balance it. It should be re-
membered also that France, aggrandized by
these splendid accessions of territory in both
directions, would have little to fear from either
Power.If this be in reality the arrangement, it mat-
ters not what course Austria may take on the
Schleswig-Holstein question. The war agreed
upon will be brought about on that pretext or
some other. It seems indeed to be well under-
stood in Austria that that Power can do nothing
to avert the contest, and that giving way on
one point would only cause her to be pushed
on some other. She feels that she might as
well fight where she is as anywhere else.The Italian war was stopped at the very
point necessary in order to secure the objects
of its originator; but there is reason to suppose
that the greater war to be induced in Ger-
many may be less controllable. It is possible
that the great schemes may at last ensure the
objects of their enemies rather than their own.
Venetia will be one more point in dispute.
Italy will be active; so also will Turkey and
Russia. Revolutionary elements will be up
wherever they exist. Hungary will make im-
perious demands for concessions; and, on the
whole, it is highly probable that the present
year may see greater changes made in the map
of Europe than have been seen since the first
Napoleon was Emperor.The City Railroad Companies and Car
Drivers.The city railroad companies and the car
drivers who struck for higher wages hold out
against each other. In the meantime the pub-
lic has been put to great inconvenience, and
even in danger, by the inexperience and unskill-
fulness of the few new drivers that have been
picked up. The sympathy of the entire com-
munity, apart from the managers and stock-
holders of the railways, is with the drivers. It
is evident that the companies are aware of this,
too, as they feel the necessity of attempting to
justify their resistance to the just demand of
their employees. The reason for this sympathy
must be apparent to every one. Two dollars
for fourteen or sixteen hours labor out of twenty-
four, is a very poor remuneration for any
kind of work in this city. And for such labor,
where the men have to stand upon their feet all
the time, exposed to the cold, heat and wet
weather, a labor which requires some skill
and incessant attention, it is decidedly
too little compared with the wages at other
kinds of employment. It is said the men re-
ceived two dollars a day, but in fact they did
not, reckoning nine or ten hours to the work-
ing day, as is the case at other work, and which
is long enough in any labor. The drivers are
really not now demanding more than two dol-
lars a day for a fair day's work. The extra
time over nine or ten hours should be reckoned
and paid for. The men ought to get two
dollars and a half for the number of hours in
which they are employed.The Second Avenue Company, through its
treasurer, says, as an excuse for resisting the
demand, that its business does not pay. This
may be so, and we do not wish to question the
statement; though we know that railroad com-
panies often spend their earnings in increasing
their property, as is shown by a communica-
tion in another column, from a person well
acquainted with the facts of which he speaks,
and then represent that they are not making
enough to declare reasonable dividends. But
if the statement of the treasurer be strictly
correct as to the Second Avenue line, the
condition of the other companies is
quite different. We know that their prop-
erty is highly valuable and profits great.
Their stock is very high and cannot be easily
obtained. In fact, it is too good for much to
be seen on the market. They can well afford
to pay the reasonable wages asked by the
drivers. There is another reason why these
rich monopolies should pay the two dollars
and fifty cents. That is, they make much more
over the legal fare than the increase of wages
asked. The seven-eighths of a cent for each
passenger over what they are legally and
strictly entitled to collect amounts to a dollar
and a half a day at least for each driver. They
extort, then, three times the sum they have a
right to collect from the public the increase of
wages would amount to. Is it surprising, then,
that the sympathy of the community is with
the drivers and against the companies?We are opposed to interference, as a general
rule, with labor and capital. These should re-
gulate themselves according to the law of de-
mand and supply and the laws of trade, as
all kinds of business, without meddling or dic-
tation from those not immediately concerned;
but in this case the press and people have a
right to say something. The railway franchises
are granted by the public for its convenience.
By refusing to pay their laborers properly, or
providing against strikes, these companies put
the public to great inconvenience and even
danger. Their charters are a contract with
the public, and in this instance they have
violated in principle that contract. While on
this subject we cannot but express our gratification
at the admirable manner in which the drivers
have conducted themselves in this strike. It is
reported that there is a movement under way
to raise contributions for them, and to induce
the railway companies to accede to their de-
mands. We hope it is so, and that the com-
panies will see it to their interest to pay some
attention to public sentiment and the neces-
sities of their late hard-worked employees.THE NEW YORK COLLECTORSHIP.—At last, it
appears, the exciting, protracted and demoral-
izing squabble of the political candidates,
cliques and rings, for the New York Custom
House is settled in the appointment of Henry
A. Smythe as Collector. And who is this Henry
A. Smythe? What has he ever done for the
radicals or conservatives; for Governor Fenton
or Secretary Seward; for the Loyal Leaguers or
the King of the Lobby, or for the transition
elements of Tammany Hall, that he should be
made our Collector? He has done nothing
for any of these cliques that we are aware of,
and has only the antecedents and recommenda-
tions of a respectable merchant and banker.
It is manifest, therefore, that he has been ap-
pointed, not for party purposes, but in refer-
ence to his supposed qualifications for the legitimate
business of the office, and in the way of a mild
rebuke to the clamorous party spoilsmen who
have been moving heaven and earth and wor-
rying the President, till they have exhausted
his patience in their shameful wranglings for
the prize.This is a new experiment in the disposition
of the New York Custom House. Heretofore,
since the time of Swartwout, under GeneralJackson, it has been appropriated almost ex-
clusively as a political machine, and, with
hardly an exceptional case, in view of the
most effective political disbursement of the
spoils and plunder by the active agent of some
political clique. Under the administration of
poor Pierce, when the democracy of New York
were divided into hardshells and softshells,
the removal of a hardshell from the Custom
House, and the appointment of a softshell in his
place, resulted in a complete division of the
party throughout the State in the ensuing elec-
tion upon a hardshell and softshell candidate
for Governor; and from that split and that de-
feat the party has never recovered. President
Johnson, in declining to appoint as Collector
the candidate urged upon him by the Seward
clique or the anti-Seward clique, the softshells
or hardshells of the republican camp, and in
singling out a man simply for his business
capabilities, and in view of the interests of the
Treasury and our mercantile community, has
adopted the best course. If Mr. Smythe, fol-
lowing this example, will devote himself simply
to the duties of his office and the interests of
the government, we dare say he will prove a
satisfactory Collector to the administration and
the public, whatever may be the complaints of
hungry and squabbling politicians.THE BROADWAY RAILROAD.—FIVE OLD
GENTLEMEN OUT OF THEIR ELEMENT.—The man-
ipulations in regard to city railroads in the
Legislature the present session have been very
amusing. Some of them have been regular
circus performances—expert dodges in the
science of keeping half a dozen balls flying in
the air without apparently lighting anywhere.
At one time the backer of one scheme sees his
glittering bubble soaring above all the others.
He claps his hands, and cries "Hi! hi!" But,
in a moment down goes the ball, and away
bursts the bubble. Then up comes another
and another prismatic ball in quick succession,
all to disappear as suddenly as they were
brought to view, with the exception of one
well-gilded bubble, which, although a very
little bubble at first, gradually expands before
the astonished gaze of the spectators, and re-
mains the only one to be seen. This latter
bubble is the Broadway Surface Railroad
scheme. The Albany lobby prestidigitators
have succeeded in keeping the opposers of the
measure charmed with their adroit perfor-
mances as they tossed aloft the under-
ground, overground, side ground and around
ground railroad balls, at the same
time keeping their own little joker
snugly in hand, to be used when
all the other bubbles have exploded. Prominent
among the spectators